

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT
WITH HOPE

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH HOPE

Psalm 39:7; 62:5; 130:5; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 8:25; Galatians 5:5

BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 1:3-5

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus followers remember the gospel.
- Jesus followers strive for when our salvation is made complete.
- Jesus followers wait well for Christ's appearing by loving and trusting Christ above all else.

BIBLE STORY: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:1; 1 PETER 1:3-9

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season, God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save His people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for His return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King, and He is coming again!

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that...

- Jesus has come and is coming again.
- At Advent, we remember His first coming to anticipate His return.
- We are called to wait faithfully for Jesus.



Every child should feel...

- Longing within their soul for the King.
- Dissatisfied by the things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every child should strive to...

- Wait with purpose for the return of Christ.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who has come and is coming again.



Every child should want...

- Trust Christ in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT
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Philippians 3:12-4:1; 1 Peter 1:3-9

THINK ABOUT IT:

In 1 Peter 1:3-9, Peter reminds Jesus followers of the gospel and the hope that they have in Christ. Because of His mercy, He has made us to be born again to a living hope because of Jesus. We have a promised inheritance that is being kept for us. Because of this, we can rejoice even though hardship and trial, and even though we cannot see Jesus, we love, trust, and rejoice in Him. In Philippians 3, the apostle Paul discusses how these gospel realities affect his life and should affect the life of every Jesus follower. Because Jesus has made us His, we can forget the life that lies behind us and strive toward the life that lies ahead of us in the promises of Christ. We can strive and press on toward the goal of our maturity in Him. We do not walk as those who are enemies of the cross, but we wait with hope for our Savior who will transform us to be like Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- How should the Jesus follower respond to trials? (We rejoice, because we have greater hope in Jesus.)
- What is the Jesus follower waiting for? (When our Savior returns to make us to be like Him.)



Make and decorate a flag with “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!” written on it. You could color it or use stickers! Put the flag somewhere you can see it all week. Take it down and practice saying the verse while you wave the flag!



Have your kids help you plan a fun family weekend. What do they hope you will do? Talk about how sometimes, our hopes on this earth are not fulfilled, but when we hope for Christ’s return, we can trust that one day it will happen.



Create an obstacle course together as a family, and race. Let the winner pick what the family eats for dessert that night. Talk about how just like each family member races because they want to win, the Christian life is like running a race. We don’t run aimlessly, but we run after the prize of being like Jesus.



Talk about your favorite family Christmas traditions. Talk about how no matter how much we look forward to those things and hope that we will enjoy them, our hope in Jesus can be greater because He is better.

Spend time in prayer as a family, thanking God for His mercy that causes us to be born again to a living hope. Ask God to help you hope in Him.